NUMB. XXVI.

The SPECTATOR.

Pallida mors æquo pulſat pede pauperum tabernas
Regumque turres, o beate Sexti,
Vitæ ſumma brevis ſpem nos vetat inchoare longam.
Jam te premet nox, fabulæque manes,
Et domus exilis Plutonia ——. Hor.

Friday, March 30. 1711.

WHEN I am in a ſerious Humour, I very often walk by my ſelf in *Weſtminſter* Abbey; where the Gloomineſs of the Place, and the Uſe to which it is applied, with the Solemnity of the Building, and the Condition of the People who lye in it, are apt to fill the Mind with a kind of Melancholy, or rather Thoughtfulneſs, that is not diſagreeable. I Yeſterday paſs'd a whole Afternoon in the Church-yard, the Cloyſters, and the Church, amuſing my ſelf with the Tomb-ſtones and Inſcriptions that I met with in thoſe ſeveral Regions of the Dead. Moſt of them recorded nothing elſe of the buried Perſon, but that he was born upon one Day and died upon another: The whole Hiſtory of his Life, being comprehended in thoſe two Circumſtances that are common to all Mankind. I could not but look upon theſe Regiſters of Exiſtence, whether of Braſs or Marble, as a kind of Satyr upon the departed Perſons; who had left no other Memorial of them, but that they were born and that they died. They put me in mind of ſeveral Perſons mentioned in the Battles of Heroic Poems, who have ſounding Names given them, for no other Reaſon but that they may be killed, and are celebrated for nothing but being knocked on the Head.

Γλαῦκον τε Μεδοντά τε Θερσιλοχόν τε. Hom.

Glaucumque, Medontaque, Therſilochumque. Virg.

The Life of theſe Men is finely deſcribed in Holy Writ, by *the Path of an Arrow* which is immediately cloſed up and loſt.

Upon my going into the Church, I entertain'd my ſelf with the digging of a Grave; and ſaw in every Shovel-full of it that was thrown up, the Fragment of a Bone or Skull intermixt with a kind of freſh mouldering Earth that ſome time or other had a Place in the Compoſition of an humane Body. Upon this, I began to conſider with my ſelf what innumerable Multitudes of People lay confus'd together under the Pavement of that ancient Cathedral; how Men and Women, Friends and Enemies, Prieſts and Soldiers, Monks and Prebendaries, were crumbled amongſt one another, and blended together in the ſame common Maſs; how Beauty, Strength, and Youth, with Old-age, Weakneſs, and Deformity, lay undiſtinguiſh'd in the ſame promiſcuous Heap of Matter.

After having thus ſurveyed this great Magazine of Mortality, as it were in the Lump, I examined it more particularly by the Accounts which I found on ſeveral of the Monuments that are raiſed in every Quarter of that ancient Fabrick. Some of them were covered with ſuch extravagant Epitaphs, that, if it were poſſible for the dead Perſon to be acquainted with them, he would bluſh at the Praiſes which his Friends had beſtow'd upon him. There are others ſo exceſſively modeſt, that they deliver the Character of the Perſon departed in Greek or Hebrew, and by that Means are not underſtood once in a Twelve-month. In the poetical Quarter, I found there were Poets that had no Monuments, and Monuments that had no Poets. I obſerved indeed that the preſent War had filled the Church with many of theſe uninhabited Monuments, which had been erected to the Memory of Perſons whoſe Bodies were perhaps buried in the Plains of *Blenheim* or in the Boſom of the Ocean.

I could not but be very much delighted with ſeveral modern Epitaphs, which are written with great Elegance of Expreſſion and Juſtneſs of Thought, and therefore do Honour to the Living as well as to the Dead. As a Foreigner is very apt to conceive an Idea of the Ignorance or Politeneſs of a Na-

a Nation from the Turn of their publick Monuments and Inſcriptions, they ſhould be ſubmitted to the Peruſal of Men of Learning and Genius before they are put in Execution. Sir *Cloudeſly Shovel*'s Monument has very often given me great Offence: Inſtead of the brave rough Engliſh Admiral, which was the diſtinguiſhing Character of that plain gallant Man, he is repreſented on his Tomb by the Figure of a Beau, dreſs'd in a long Perriwig, and repoſing himſelf upon Velvet Cuſhions under a Canopy of State. The Inſcription is anſwerable to the Monument; for inſtead of celebrating the many remarkable Actions he had performed in the Service of his Country, it acquaints us only with the Manner of his Death, in which it was impoſſible for him to reap any Honour. The *Dutch*, whom we are apt to deſpiſe for want of Genius, ſhew an infinitely greater Taſte of Antiquity and Politeneſs in their Buildings and Works of this Nature, than what we meet with in thoſe of our own Country. The Monuments of their Admirals, which have been erected at the publick Expence, repreſent 'em like themſelves; and are adorn'd with roſtral Crowns and naval Ornaments, with beautiful Feſtoons of Shells and Coral.

But to return to our Subject. I have left the Repoſitory of our Engliſh Kings for the Contemplation of another Day, when I ſhall find my Mind diſpoſed for ſo ſerious an Amuſement. I know that Entertainments of this Nature, are apt to raiſe dark and diſmal Thoughts in timorous Minds and gloomy Imaginations; but for my own Part, though I am always ſerious, I do not know what it is to be melancholy; and can therefore take a View of Nature in her deep and ſolemn Scenes, with the ſame Pleaſure as in her moſt gay and delightful ones. By this Means I can improve my ſelf with thoſe Objects, which others conſider with Terrour. When I look upon the Tombs of the Great, every Emotion of Envy dies in me; when I read the Epitaphs of the Beautiful, every inordinate Deſire goes out; when I meet with the Grief of Parents upon a Tomb-ſtone, my Heart melts with Compaſſion; when I ſee the Tomb of the Parents themſelves, I conſider the Vanity of grieving for thoſe whom we muſt quickly follow: When I ſee Kings lying by thoſe who depoſed them, when I conſider rival Wits plac'd Side by Side, or the holy Men that divided the World with their Conteſts and Diſputes, I reflect with Sorrow and Aſtoniſhment on the little Competitions, Factions, and Debates of Mankind. When I read the ſeveral Dates of the Tombs, of ſome that dy'd Yeſterday, and ſome ſix hundred Years ago, I conſider that great Day when we ſhall all of us be Contemporaries, and make our Appearance together.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

The Hiſtory of the Revolutions in Sweden, occaſion'd by the Change of Religion and Alteration of the Government in that Kingdom. Written originally in French by the Abbot Vertot, and Tranſlated into Engliſh by J. Mitchel, M. D. The 3d Edition, wherein is added an acurate Map of Sweden engrav'd by Mr. Moll. Printed for Tim. Childe at the White-Hart in St. Paul's Church-yard.

Miſcellanies by the late Lord Marquis of Halliſax, viz. Advice to a Daughter. The Character of a Trimmer. The Anatomy of an Equivalent. A Letter to a Diſſenter, cautions for Choice of Parliament Men. A rough Draught of a new Model at Sea. Maxims of State, &c. Printed for D. Midwinter at the three Crowns in St. Paul's Church-yard.

The Appearance of God to Man in the Goſpel, and the Goſpel Change; with a Diſcourſe of Prayer, and ſeveral Diſcourſes from Places of Scripture. By Mr. Peter Sterry, formerly of Emanuel College in Cambridge. The Advertiſement to the Reader ſhews the great Eſteem that Eminent Divine Dr. Whitchcott had of the Author. Sold by A. Baldwin at the Oxford Arms in Warwick-Lane.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

Mr. J. Gadbury's Aſtrological Seaman; directing Merchants, Mariners, Captains of Ships, Gunners, &c. How, by God's Bleſſing, they may eſcape divers Dangers which commonly happen in the Ocean: With a Diary of the Weather for 21 Years, and his Obſervations thereon; being a Book of general Uſe as well as Curioſity. Price bound 3 s 6 d. Printed for G. Sawbridge in Little-Britain, where may be had Sir W. Read's Treatiſe of the Eyes, very proper for Families. Price bound 1 s 6 d.

Juſt publiſh'd,

The Rights of the Clergy of the Chriſtian Church: Or, A Diſcourſe ſhewing, that God has given and appropriated to the Clergy, Authority to Ordain, Baptize, Preach, Preſide in Church-Prayer, and Conſecrate the Lord's Supper. Wherein alſo the Pretended Divine Right of the Layety to Elect, either the Perſons to be Ordained, or their own particular Paſtors, is Examin'd and Diſprov'd. By Tho. Bennet, M.A. Rector of St. James's in Colcheſter. Printed for J. Knapton at the Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard: And Sold by Edmund Jeffery, Bookſeller in Cambridge. Price 5 s.

The Fire of the Altar; or, certain Directions how to raiſe the Soul into holy Flames before, at, and after the receiving the bleſſed Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, with ſuitable Prayers and Devotions. To which is prefix'd a Dialogue betwixt a Chriſtian and his own Conſcience, concerning the Real Nature of the Chriſtian Religion. By Anthony Horneck, D. D. Printed for H. and G. Mortlock at the Phœnix in St. Paul's Church-yard.

Prælectiones Poeticæ: In Schola Naturalis Philoſophiæ Oxon. Habitæ. Authore Joſepho Trapp, A. M. Coll. Wadh. Socio & Prælectore Public Lecturæ Poeticæ; a Viro inſignissimo D. Henrico Birkhead, Coll. Omnium Animarum olim Socio in celeberrima Univerſitate Oxonienſi nuper Fundatæ. Oxonii e Theatro Sheldoniano. Impenſis Bernardi Lintott Bibliopolæ Londinenſis. Price bound 2 s. 6 d.

The Uſe, Meaſures, and Manner of Chriſtian Faſting; eſpecially with regard to the moſt holy Paſſion-Week. To which is added, a Sermon on Acts 17. 3, 4. Lately Preach'd at Triploe near Cambridge. By Edmund Brome, B. D. and Fellow of St. John's College in Cambridge. Printed for R. Thurlbourn, Bookſeller, in Cambridge; and Sold by J. Knapton at the Crown, and R. Knaplock at the Biſhop's-Head, in St. Paul's Church-yard, London.

Newly publiſh'd the 2d Edition of,

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper explain'd to the meaneſt Capacity, in a Familiar Dialogue between a Miniſter and one of his Pariſhioners: Wherein is ſhew'd the Inſtitution, Nature, End, and Deſign of it; our Obligation to it, the Preparation neceſſary for it, and our Behaviour at, and after it. Together with Prayers proper for the Occaſion. Printed for Rob. Knaplock at the Biſhop's-Head in St. Paul's Church-yard. Price 3 d. or 20 s. the 100.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

Religious Wiſdom the beſt Treaſure. A Sermon Preach'd before the Worſhipful Company of Goldſmiths, at St. Mary le Bow, on Feb. 6. 1710-11. By George Dell, L.L.B. Rector of Foulneſs in Eſſex. Publiſh'd at the Requeſt of the Stewards, and others of the Audience. Printed for Wm Innys at the Prince's-Arms in St. Paul's Church-yard.

An Expoſition of the Church Catechiſm; for the Uſe of the Dioceſe of Sarum. By the Right Reverend Father in God Gilbert Lord Biſhop of Sarum. Printed for John Churchill at the black Swan in Pater-noſter-row.

Juſt publiſh'd,

The Art of Engliſh Poetry, containing, I. Rules for making Verſes. II. A Collection of the moſt natural, agreeable, and ſublime Thoughts, viz. Alluſions, Similes, Deſcriptions and Characters of Perſons and Things that are to be found in the beſt Engliſh Poets. III. A Dictionary of Rhymes. By Edward Byſshe, Gent. The Fourth Edition, 8vo. Printed for Sam. Buckley, at the Dolphin in Little-Britain, and Sold by the Bookſellers.

Gloſſographia Anglicana Nova: Or, A Dictionary interpreting ſuch hard Words of whatſoever Language, as are at preſent uſed in the Engliſh Tongue, with their Etymologies, Definitions, &c. Alſo the Terms of Divinity, Law, Phyſick, &c. from the beſt Modern Authors, as Sir Iſaac Newton, Dr. Harris, Dr. Gregory, &c. very uſeful to all thoſe that deſire to underſtand what they Read. Printed for D. Midwinter at the 3 Crowns in St. Paul's Church-yard.

Short Inſtructions for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; and all Objections to it Anſwer'd: Together with a Sermon, ſhewing the Church to be the Place of Communion, and the Office of the Clergy to be Inviolable. To which are added ſhort Prayers upon the ſame Occaſion. By Richard Roots, M. A. Rector of Chilmark in Wilts. Oxford, Printed for Stephen Fletcher, Bookſeller, and Sold by J. Knapton at the Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard, and W. Taylor at the Ship in Pater-Noſter-Row, Bookſellers in London. Pr. 3 d.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.